

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 SP-02 PM-03 EB-04
DODE-00 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 /037 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/JWSWIHART
APPROVED BY EUR - G VEST
EUR/PP/WZIMMERMAN

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R 292100Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
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INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

S E C R E T STATE 151631

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, USIT

SUBJECT: 1977 POLICY ASSESSMENT FOR ITALY

REF: ROME 5818

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1. DEPARTMENT COMMENDS ROME'S COMPREHENSIVE AND IMAGINATIVE POLICY ASSESSMENT, WHICH WAS REVIEWED IN AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON JUNE 6TH. THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP CONSIDERED ITALY'S CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS AND APPROVED BY CONSENSUS A LIST OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICY/ACTIONS BASED ON THE MISSION'S ASSESSMENT WHICH SHOULD GUIDE THE WORK OF ALL MISSION ELEMENTS. (A MORE DETAILED

ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WILL BE POUCHED TO ROME). THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT THAT OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE REMAINS THE PRESERVATION OF ITALY AS A WESTERN-ORIENTED DEMOCRACY AND A FULL PARTICIPANT IN ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS. ALL OTHER OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FLOW FROM THIS PRIMARY U.S. OBJECTIVE.

2. THE APPROVED LIST OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES/ACTIONS FOLLOWS:

OBJECTIVES

-- THE PRESERVATION OF ITALY AS A WESTERN-ORIENTED DEMOCRACY AND A FULL PARTICIPANT IN ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS.

-- EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND A HEALTHY ECONOMY CAPABLE OF FULFILLING THE NEEDS OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE.

-- UNDIMINISHED COOPERATIVE USE OF U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN ITALY FOR NATO AND OTHER U.S. OBJECTIVES.

-- VIGOROUS ITALIAN SUPPORT OF WESTERN POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.

-- IMPROVED IMAGE IN ITALY OF THE U.S. AS A JUST, VIABLE, AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY.

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-- EXPANSION OF U.S. EXPORTS TO ITALY AND OF THE U.S. SHARE OF THE MARKET, IN THE CONTEXT OF A HEALTHY US-EC RELATIONSHIP.

POLICIES/ACTIONS

-- MAKE CLEAR U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A NON-COMMUNIST ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, THOUGH NOT INTERFERING IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. WHILE WE WILL RESPECT ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS, WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT COMMUNIST ADHERENCE TO WESTERN TRADITIONS, VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS.

-- MAINTAIN FIRM, UNDIMINISHED COMMITMENT TO ITALY AS A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNER IN SECURITY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS.

-- ENCOURAGE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO REGENERATE THEMSELVES AS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE COMMUNISTS.

-- SUPPORT ITALIAN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT STABLE, NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH. WORK THROUGH THE IMF TO PROMOTE

STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC REFORMS, BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT, AND REDUCE INFLATION AND INDEBTEDNESS.

-- CONSULT FULLY WITH ITALIANS ON IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ISSUES.

-- DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION TO HELP SOLVE ITALY'S ENERGY PROBLEMS.

-- ENCOURAGE GREATER ITALIAN DEFENSE EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF NATO GOAL OF 3 PERCENT REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGETS INCLUDING SUPPORT OF AWACS.

PROMOTE EXCHANGES IN SUCH AREAS AS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND JOURNALISM.

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TRATION, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND JOURNALISM.

-- FOSTER INCREASED ITALIAN AWARENESS OF AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL, ARTISTIC, AND SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INSTRUCTIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE151631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WE/JWSWIHART
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770233-0141
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977066/aaaaaeyl.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ad2417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 ROME 5818
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2161087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1977 POLICY ASSESSMENT FOR ITALY
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, US, IT
To: ROME BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ad2417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009